

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 DHA-02

PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03

NEA-10 IO-13 PRS-01 /075 W

-----031622 004773 /44

O 031545Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4768

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2943

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, CSCE, PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: ARREST OF SOVIET CITIZENS IN FRONT OF US EMBASSY

REFS: MOSCOW 2849 AND PREVIOUS

1. FAYN TELEPHONED CONSOFF MARCH 3 AND REQUESTED TO BE PERMITTED TO DICTATE LETTER TO AMBASSADOR OVER TELEPHONE. CONSOFF MADE NO COMMITMENT AS TO DISPOSITION OF LETTER, BUT TOLD FAYN THAT IF HE WISHED TO READ SOMETHING OVER TELEPHONE, CONSOFF WOULD ARRANGE TO HAVE IT WRITTEN DOWN. EMBOFF, WHO IS FLUENT RUSSIAN SPEAKER, TOOK DOWN AND TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH FOLLOWING LETTER.

2. QUOTE. DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR: OUR LETTER TO YOU RESULTS FROM THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES. DURING THE PAST THREE DAYS, WE WERE, BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT, INVITED BY MEMBERS OF YOUR STAFF TO VISIT THE EMBASSY. HOWEVER, MEMBERS OF THE MILITIA AND KGB APPREHENDED US AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE EMBASSY, SUBJECTED US TO A SEARCH, AND ARRESTED US FOR SEVERAL HOURS. AS A RESULT, WE WERE UNABLE TO VISIT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY.

3. THIS UNDOUBTEDLY ILLEGAL ACTION BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES WAS ON THIS OCCASION DISTINGUISHED BY ITS ESPECIALLY BLATANT
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CHARACTER. WE SUPPOSE THAT THE REASON FOR THIS IS TO BE FOUND IN THE ATTITUDE OF THE AUTHORITIES TOWARD THE QUESTION EXERCISING US ALL, AND WHICH WE INTENDED TO DISCUSS; THAT IS, THE SUPPRESSION OF RIGHTS OF THE JEWISH NATIONAL MINORITY IN THE SOVIET UNION IN EXPRESSING ITS CULTURE, RELIGION, AND LANGUAGE. EVIDENCE FOR THIS IS TO BE FOUND IN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SYMPOSIUM ON JEWISH CULTURE IN MOSCOW IN DECEMBER

1976, IN THE PROHIBITION OF PRIVATE INSTRUCTION OF THE HEBREW LANGUAGE, AND IN THE CONTINUING WIDE-SCALE ANTI-ISRAELI PROPAGANDA, DIRECTED AT THE SUPPRESSION OF THE JEWISH NATIONAL MOVEMENT IN THE USSR. THE PAPERS PREPARED FOR THE SYMPOSIUM, TOGETHER WITH THE WHITE BOOK CONTAINING TESTIMONY BY PARTICIPANTS IN THE SYMPOSIUM, AND THE DECLARATION TO THE US CONGRESS ON COOPERATION AND SECURITY IN EUROPE, WERE CONFISCATED AT THE TIME OF THE RECENT ARRESTS.

4. GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT CONTACT WITH THE AMERICAN EMBASSY -- OF THE COUNTRY WHICH SHOWS DEEP INTEREST AND CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE WORLD -- IS FOR US EXTREMELY IMPORTANT, AND "TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE EXTENT OF THE QUESTION UNDER STUDY," WE REQUEST YOU TO COMMUNICATE ONCE AGAIN WITH THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES, SO THAT WE WOULD BE PERMITTED TO ENTER THE AMERICAN EMBASSY.

5. IF, HOWEVER, THIS SHOULD PROVE IMPOSSIBLE, WE ARE PREPARED TO RECEIVE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EMBASSY IN OUR APARTMENTS BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT OVER THE TELEPHONE.

6. RESPECTFULLY,

PROFESSOR VENIAMIN FAYN
CHERNOGOLOVKA, MOSCOW OBLAST, UL. PERVAYA, 34, KV. 28;
DOCTOR IOSIF BEGUN
MOSCOW, UL. MEL'NIKOVA, 14, KV. 14;
ENGINEER VLADIMIR PRESTIN
MOSCOW, UL. URAL'SKAYA, 6, KORP. 4, KV. 11.
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UNQUOTE

7. FAYN TELEPHONED AGAIN LATER IN AFTERNOON, AT WHICH TIME HE WAS TOLD THAT CONSULAR OFFICER WOULD BE PREPARED TO RECEIVED HIM AT HOME. FAYN ACCEPTED, AND INDICATED THAT TOMORROW, MARCH 4, WOULD BE MORE CONVENIENT FOR HIM THAN TODAY AND STATED THAT HE WOULD TELEPHONE EMBASSY AGAIN TOMORROW AND MAKE ARRANGEMENTS. IN ANY EVENT, WE DO NOT INTEND TO SEND EMBASSY OFFICER TO FAYN'S APARTMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW02943
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, UR, US, CSCE, (FAYN, BENJAMIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2e0f38be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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